

Becoming a Music or Music Education Major

Several students and parents have recently shown interest in the possibility of majoring in music in college. If this is the case with your child, please let the band directors know. We can do our best to make sure they are following the right path to do so. The following information supplied to us by **The University of Akron** and **The Ohio State University** is designed to help guide students who are interested in majoring in music education in college.

Attributes of Effective Music Educators

1. Good Musician
2. Positive Attitude
3. Good Work Ethic
4. Good Time Management Skills
5. Good People Skills
6. Organized
7. Ethical
8. Sense of Humor

What to look for when choosing a music education program

1. **Number of Full Time Vs Part Time Faculty.** Full time faculty tend to be more dedicated to their profession as opposed to someone who is only working at the university for part of the day/week.
2. **Qualifications of all faculty.** Where did the faculty attend college? What types of degrees do they have? (bachelors, masters, doctorate) What ensembles have they played in?
3. **Quality of ensembles and undergraduate access to those ensembles.** Some of the top college ensembles allow their graduate students to audition and have placement within the ensemble, making it more difficult for undergraduate students to participate in the university's highest skilled ensemble.
4. **Qualifications of faculty teaching method classes** (method classes are where other instruments other than your principal instrument are studied).
5. **Opportunities for field experience and peer teaching.**
6. **Job Placement Rate.** What percentage of the school's music education graduates have gained employment?

What you need to do to prepare...

1. **Work diligently on your applied instrument.** Practice, practice, practice! Take private lessons with a qualified teacher. There are concepts and skills to be learned on your instrument that can never be learned in band rehearsals alone. See a band director if you are in need of finding a qualified private lessons teacher.
2. **Take piano lessons.** You will have courses as a music education student where you will be expected to be familiar with using a piano keyboard.
3. **Take high school music theory.** This will make your first semesters of college music theory so much easier.
4. **Work diligently in all of your high school coursework** to develop good study habits and to earn high grades
5. **Visit several institutions to compare the programs.** Call to see if you can spend an entire day with a university you are interested in. During this day try to complete the following:
 - Attend one or more academic classes - music theory, music history, conducting, etc.
 - Take a private lesson with the primary teacher of their instrument - this is very important.
 - Meet with current students in your particular area.
 - Sit in and play/rehearse with one of our ensembles.
 - Take a campus tour.
 - Set up a date to return to audition for a scholarship and for acceptance in to the School of Music.
 - Be prepared to ask questions. You are interviewing them just as much as they are interviewing you.

The following is an example of a college admissions/enrollment checklist supplied to us by the University of Akron. This applies to ALL majors, not just music:

Admissions

- Admissions Application - New Freshmen** - Complete and submit the Admissions Application online.
- Application Fee** - A nonrefundable application fee is usually required.
- College Prep Form** - This form is sometimes required and is completed by the student's school counselor.
- Transcript(s)** - Submit an official copy of your high school transcripts and an official copy of any college transcripts including postsecondary coursework (when appropriate). Transcripts may usually be sent separately from the Admissions Application.
- Test Results** - Students under the age of 21 should arrange for ACT or SAT results to be sent to the college/university.

Enrollment Process

- Complete Admission Process** - Refer to the information listed above.
- Receive Acceptance Packet** - The typical Acceptance Packet will include your letter of admission, Welcome Booklet and Intent to Enroll Form.
- Submit your Intent to Enroll Form and confirmation fee** - Many colleges/universities encourage students to submit an Intent to Enroll Form and any required confirmation fee by May 1.
- Receive Enrollment Packet** - This packet will include details regarding New Student Orientation, as well as access to the housing and dining plan contracts and is mailed to the students who have completed and submitted the Intent to Enroll form and confirmation fee.
- Register for New Student Orientation** - Orientation programs are sometimes reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Early action is usually encouraged. During orientation each student is usually assigned a personal academic adviser. Advisers assist students with registration of classes, discuss academic majors and course requirements, and chart career paths. Parents are typically encouraged to attend the parents' program as part of the orientation.
- Complete and submit the housing contract (may be optional)** - Students who intend to live on campus should complete and submit a housing contract by the college's Freshman Housing Priority Date. If you have questions, contact the Department of Residence Life and Housing at the institution.

Financial Assistance

- Office of Financial Aid** - The Financial assistance to incoming students is typically awarded in the form of scholarships, grants, loans and work-study.
- Most colleges and universities encourage applicants to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- The completed FAFSA should be submitted after January 1 and no later than March 1st for priority consideration, depending on the institution. To request a pin number (or electronic signature) visit www.pin.ed.gov.
- Check for additional deadlines to be considered for university-wide scholarships.

If you have any questions regarding financial aid, contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at the college/university.

Helpful web-sites for financial planning information:

- The Student Guide to Financial Aid** (from the US Department of Education): <http://studentaid.ed.gov/guide>